



LARC 75th Anniversary dinner

LARC 75th Anniversary dinner will be held Friday, April 17, 2009. It will be held in the Sun room at the Slovak Legion. Tickets are on sale for \$30.00 a person.

Please purchase tickets from the following members: Bob VE3RVA, Karl VE3RRP, Joe VE3 TBX, Brad VE3MXJ, Randy VA3OJ, Doug VE3EFC, Ken VE3EFZ, Bill VE3XT

Please support this special dinner!

Prez Sez

.... greeting to one and all from our new President

I would like to take some time to thank all the people involved with the recent publicity that the LARC has received.

First group was involved in the recruitment of prospective hams. Doug VE3EFC did a great job getting the word out into the public for the Waverley Info Night. Ken VE3EFZ for going around and hand posting all the places that were left over with information about ham radio. Bill VE3XT for speaking to the people that attended. Bob VE3RVA for the props and help at the event. Karl VE3RRP for his help and support and to Joe VE3TBX and John VE3EMI for showing up and helping out.

Second group was involved with the Chronicle Journal interview at VE3ONN at the Salvation Army Headquarters. Lori VE3VAI, Karl VE3RRP and Bob VA3ROM at the Coast Guard station did a great job demonstrating how the radios work and the different modes of operations that are available to the amateur world these days. From what I got out of the article, I think we made a good impression. A special note of thanks goes out to Merv VA3TSA for giving us space to set up VE3ONN at the Salvation Army building. Sorry you missed it Merv but S.A. did get a much deserved thank you.

Many things have been happening in the radio world. The John Beargrease Dog Sled Marathon was held at the end of January and I attended in a much larger capacity than last year. I have some stories to tell and will try to have a note for next month. FYBO (freeze your buns off) happened in the month of February and a few hardy souls braved the weather. It was nice in the morning but by noon the wind was blowing and made any outside activity a bit of a challenge but the meals on wheels gal saved the day. Thanks Rita!!!

One note of importance is that at this monthly meeting we will be looking for someone to join the executive in the capacity of director. If you feel that you would like to do something for yourself and the club, submit your name for the position and make a difference to the hobby that support.

Thanks goes out to Brad VE3MXJ for taking on the position of E.C. for Thunder Bay ARES and wish him well in his new position. John VA3JMS has taken on the role of public service coordinator. Please help out at these events and give John the support he needs when he asks for it

Thanks and 73's
Randy VA3OJ

**Every Tuesday at 1900 on VE3YQT
is the LARC 2 meter A.R.E.S. net.**

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
 Pat Doherty VE3PD
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President
 Randy Gottfred VA3OJ
 Vice-President
 Bob Hansen VE3RVA 767-6924
 Secretary
 Karl VE3RRP
 Treasurer
 Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566
 Directors
 Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628
 Doug VE3EFC
 Brian Bolt VE3BCQ
 Past President
 Bill Unger VE3XT

ABOUT US

The :Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

LARC Treasurer's Report

February 2009

Balance on Hand - December 31, 2008	\$6,550.22
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Income

Memberships	\$70.00
50/50 Draw	\$10.00
Crests	\$420.00
Donations	\$2.00
Bank Interest	\$0.05
Total Income	\$502.05

Expenses

Industry Canada - 75th Ann. Special Call Sign	\$60.00
Thunder Bay Telephone	\$47.61
Bank Service Charges	\$2.00
Tickets for annual Dinner	\$22.60
Total Expenses	\$132.21

Balance on Hand - February 2, 2009	\$6,920.06
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Joe Coghlan - VE3TBX
 Treasurer

LARC Emergency Coordinator

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628
ARES District Emergency Coordinator
 VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
 Assistant
 tba

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628
Public Service Events
 VA3JMS John 767-3631

Amateur Radio

Accredited Examiner
 VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
flesnick@tbaytel.net

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)
 442.075 (+5 MHz)
 144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)
 442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)
 VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

MeetingDate: January 8, 2009 - President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Guest Speaker: Sharon Bak from the Red Cross gave an enjoyable and informative presentation about the Disaster Management Role of the Red Cross, the different services they can provide, and how other agencies mesh with the Red Cross mandate. LARC presented Sharon with a \$25 gift card for Pizza Hut as a gesture of appreciation.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Coghlan VE3TBX moved to accept the report as printed in the January edition of Hi-Q. Seconded by Terry Stewardson VA3LU. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the December meeting's minutes as amended in the club email. Seconded by Jonathan Janeway VA3NNT. Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Ham Classes: The class is called "Talk to the World" and is beginning on Thursday January 29th, 2009. An Information Session on ham radio is being organized by Doug McCormack VE3EFC at the Waverly Library Room Tuesday night January 13, 7 to 8:45. Ken Rusnak VE3EFZ is distributing posters. Doug MacCormack's company has bought advertisements in the local media. Bill Unger VE3XT will talk about the classes at the presentation.

Public Service

ARES: Fred Lesnick VE3FAL reported for ARES. Fred thanked Randy Gottfred VA3OJ for his 12 years of service to ARES. (Randy assumed the position of President at the last LARC meeting and therefore resigned his position of EC.) Fred reported Brad Harris VE3MXJ will be filling the position of EC, which also means that Brad will be resigning the position of Public Service Coordinator. Fred also reported that he has 46 members registered in the Amethyst District of ARES.

VE3ONN

Work on VE3ONN, the district EOC, is progressing with equipment acquisition and training planned. LARC is loaning some equipment to the station. A current equipment list has been compiled by Randy Gottfred VA3OJ and is appended.

Sleeping Giant Loppet, March 7, 2009. (Formerly Sibley Ski Tour) Norm Bell VE3XRC has contacted the volunteers that worked on the Loppet last year to see who wants to be included in 2009. He is looking for interested volunteers.

Repeater News: Audio levels, which were a little low, are fixed on the IRLP repeater. The audio levels on VE3TBR are being monitored and updated. There have been no problems observed on VE3YQT.

75th Anniversary Committee

Club members are authorized to use VB3 for VA3 and VC3 for VE3 for the month of April, local time. Bill Unger VE3XT is working on getting the word to the amateur magazines about the LARC special 75th anniversary station that will be in operation on Saturday April 18th and Sunday April 19th from 9 am to 9 pm local time. People contacting VC3FW will be able to send \$5.00 to receive a commemorative award. Crest order forms were available at the meeting. It was the final night to make a 75th anniversary crest order. Decals were distributed courtesy of Cliff.

Annual Dinner:

The annual dinner is \$30 a ticket, April 17th, (the anniversary of the very first ham radio club meeting.) at the Slovak Legion available now! We need a minimum of 40 people to attend. Tickets are available from any member of the executive. We are working on a getting a talk from a local historian about the 1930s. There will be an anniversary cake! The 75th committee is going to work out more program and display details.

New Business

Election of Director at the February Meeting Nominations and election for a new LARC Director will be held at next meeting. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the club, have ideas of what the club should do, or know a member who might be interested, now is your chance to step forward.

FYBO in February

Bill Unger VE3XT is organizing the FYBO QRP outing. February 7, 2009, 14:00 to 24:00 Z. He invites everyone interested to come out. Meet at the Blue Parrot Restaurant to plan the attack.

LARC Membership Cards

Thanks to Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC for designing, we have new LARC membership cards. Joe Coghlan VE3TBX has put them on card stock, cut them, and they are being distributed at club meetings now.

Callsign Prefixes IYA

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP mentioned that from January 1, 2009 to February 27th inclusive, UTC, to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy, Canadian amateurs may use special prefixes. VE hams may use CG, and VA hams may use CF. i.e. VE3FW would become CG3FW.

50/50 Draw winner: Lori Bedford VE3VAI

Adjournment moved by Terry Stewardson VA3LU at 9:27 PM ET.

Next LARC Meeting: February 12, 2009

WIRE ANTENNA SUPPORTS

Philip Arthur Moorey VE3AXL

After a number of years of QRP in the field I think that I am satisfied with my equipment and how it sets up in the field. There is one point of unease and that is the supporting material used to hold up my wire antennas. After much experimenting with various materials these are the characteristics that I am looking for and why.

Strength The material must support at least 50 lbs and be able to pull a wire through dense branches.

Light weight For packing reasons it must be light to carry

Supple Material must not be stiff but able to lie flat where it is laid. Material with a memory or any stiffness takes up too much room and is prone to tangle.

No twist in material fiber construction. Again this type of material is prone to knotting and knots will not slide through branches very well. Since these are the things that I don't like here is what I think that I want.

A braided line similar to a fly fishing line.

It is designed to lie across the water. It doesn't tangle even when wet.

It comes in various weights and diameters and is expensive.

I have tried almost every other material that I can think of from dental floss to nylon fishing lines and everything in between and found fault for one reason or the other.

Another possibility that I have yet to try is venetian blind cord. It is cheap, light and braided but I haven't been able to find a source.

Now many of you may think that anything will do but this material must be able to be wound into a tight roll. I usually carry three 50' coils. It must tie easily into a knot but be easy to get apart.

This is especially true when it is cold and wet. If the material is too soft it won't undo and yet if it is too stiff it doesn't coil and hold a secure knot

If you want to send Phil your ideas about the ideal antenna support line, reach him at pmooreyca@yahoo.ca

Earthquake Strikes Costa Rica Emergency Ham Frequency Declared

On Thursday, January 8 at 1921z, an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck the Central American country of Costa Rica. The earthquake, with an epicenter located about 22 miles northeast of San Jose, comes after a series of almost 60 seismic events that have rocked the country since early this week.

The Radio Club de Costa Rica (RCCR) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- is monitoring local repeaters and 7090 kHz. IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, requests that 7090 kHz be kept clear of non-essential traffic due to possible emergency communications dealing with the earthquake. The ARRL encourages all amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on this frequency. US amateurs should avoid interfering with Spanish language SSB while using digital modes.

Courtesy of ARRL via Leo VE3ATC

TOWER TO GO

I had a phone call from Heidi (622-2627) Her late husband put up a 40 foot guyed tower with Jo-Gun antenna and she would like to get rid of it. It can be seen at 250 Empire Avenue (off Kingsway).

73, Doug McCormack VE3EFC

Ham Links

<http://www.helsinki.fi/~korpela/PU/PU.html>
<http://www.thestar.com/article/581309>
<http://www.artscipub.com/simpleton/simp.range.html>
<http://www.artscipub.com/simpleton/simp.quickie.html>

CQ100 – Letter for “The Last Word” from Leo P. Purcell EI6D

...apparently Doug's excellent program CQ100 has been causing some controversy over the pond, and in particular in RADCOM magazine. Like IRLP and other internet tools, some are saying "but it's not ham radio. This is one ham's reply. printed with his permission...Ed

The Editor's note in the June Last Word states that the letters published in relation to CQ100 are a representative sample of those received. This indicates a 4 to 1 rejection, by those who took time to write, of the appropriateness of publication in RadCom of the article by G3NKH. One writer stated that CQ100 “has no connection to the amateur radio hobby at all” and later “the only relevance to amateur radio is that one has to be a licensed radio amateur to be allowed to use it”. While these two statements appear to be contradictory I feel that they underline just why CQ100 is worthy of some more objective evaluation.

The thing which binds us licensed radio amateurs together worldwide, through all shades of ethnic and political diversity, is the wish to communicate using radio waves. We have all proved our dedication to this by taking whatever steps were necessary to obtain our cherished licences and call signs. The sense of camaraderie generated by possession of a licence transcends all borders and languages. The simple statement “I am EI6D” has often instantly produced an enthusiastic welcome for me in different parts of the world.

An essential ingredient for the development, over more than a century, of this wonderful sense of camaraderie, which is nearly unique to our hobby, has, of course, been **communication** and the **sharing of ideas**. Our fundamental communication medium is, without question, radio. However, since the very earliest days this has been assisted by other methods of communication such as the formation of national societies, dedicated clubs and publication of dedicated magazines.

The present sunspot minimum, which seems to be lasting a very long time, has severely limited the scope for radio communication between those amateurs whose main interest is HF, particularly those with limited and/or fixed

operating hours. This must have a negative effect on enthusiasm and on the global dimension of our hobby.

If viewed in the same light as dedicated radio clubs or magazines I feel that CQ100 should merit recognition as having a worthwhile role to play in **SUPPORT** of the Hobby of Amateur Radio particularly during the sunspot minimum and as we emerge from it. Our hobby has always been noted for the great diversity of activity which it encompasses. Even those exponents of UHF, moonbounce, meteor scatter and other activities which do not require ownership of a significant HF facility, including antennas, could well find the ability to discuss and share ideas with like minded licensed radio amateurs on the other side of the planet to be very rewarding. How CQ100 develops will depend almost entirely on how it is used – exclusively by licensed radio amateurs.

Some of the letters expressing negative reaction to G3NKH's article admit that CQ100 is an excellent program. A number of factors have been built in to discourage abuse. These include requirement of absolute proof of possession of an amateur radio licence, automatic display of the station callsign immediately on activation of the “transmitter”, inability to “transmit” on a “frequency” on which another user is, at that moment, “transmitting”. Offenders can be effectively removed from the system. It is an oversimplification to dismiss CQ100 as “an internet toy”.

The fact that CQ100 is being developed as a commercial undertaking should be an advantage which will help to secure long term viability. We all pay subscriptions to Societies, clubs and magazines and the present subscription to CQ100 is quite modest.

Finally, some radio amateurs who have spent years at the “cutting edge” of the hobby designing and building equipment, erecting and maintaining antennas etc. may, for one reason or another, find that they can no longer pursue these activities to the full. This may be due to reduced ability to undertake the physical tasks involved, apartment dwelling, antenna restrictions or other reason. For these CQ100 could well provide a way to keep in touch with the hobby, and with long established friends, using a form of communication with which they have been very familiar. F

From my viewpoint the article by G3NKH was a useful contribution to the Hobby of Amateur Radio and the Editor of RadCom was fully justified in bringing the development of CQ100 to the attention of readers.

Leo can be reached at lppurcell@eircom.net or ei6d@arrl.net

North East Regional Directors Report January 2009

The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on January 27th starting at 2330Z. I did miss sending out the December Report, at that time of year I am marking end of term reports and we went out west to visit kids and grandkids.

At our last teleconference again most of the time was spent with routine housekeeping matters. One minor concern is things are a little backlogged at RAC headquarters so I hope you can be patient with renewed memberships as the temporary staff has left for a full time job.

I obtained a list of amateurs who chose not to renew their subscription to RAC and out of curiosity I called them. Over the last few weekends I attempted to contact 51 Amateurs from the North East Region. Out of the 51 names 27 were not listed on Canada 411. I tried to contact some of them by phoning people with the same last name in their community and still could not contact them. The data on Canada 411 was the same as Industry Canada's addresses. Some of the hams never got around to it and others were not as involved in amateur radio as before. That's fair ball. What does concern me and other Directors is that over 50% of amateurs are not current in the Industry Canada data base.

As part of the above I sent out email to the Radio Clubs listed on RAC's Web Page for my region and many were bounced. Would you please verify the information for your club and correct it if necessary. I would be pleased to make the changes for your club.

Again I am asking you to go to the IC listing of amateurs and please verify that the data for each amateur in your area is current. If not please notify them and ask them to correct the data. If you're not sure just let me know and I will correct the data.

The link to the data base is <http://www.callsign.ca/> Once there chose your language preference and do a "search by city" based on your location. I know I have asked this before but it is really important to maintain accurate data for both us and Industry Canada.

On a personal note I hope you keep an ear open for the Little Thunder QRP Club on February 7, on 40 or 20M in the CW bands. I will be taking part in the Freeze Your Buns Off. It's kind of like Field Day in Long Johns. We operate from a city park and the multiplier is based on the temperature at the operating position. We usually get the maximum multiplier! So give a listen for VE3XT/QRP. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca.

73

Bill VE3XT - North East Ontario - Regional Director

Ham Classes are a Go

We had eleven people register for the "Talk to the World" Ham Classes. Out of that number three were students at the College or LU and the remainder were people who were just interested in obtaining their licence. Some are interested in aeronautical and or marine operations, others are short wave listeners, and others are just interested in seeing what it's all about. In talking to the Continuing Education Department at the College having this number of registrants is amazing for a first time course.

There is a chance we may have one or two more registrants in the next week or so. It looks like a very positive outcome for all our advertising and legwork. A special thanks to Doug, VE3EFC. He went way and beyond the normal call of duty to organise the display at the Waverly Library and getting lots of ink in the local media. Thanks Doug.

By the time you have read this we will have had several lessons done. Soon Fred, VE3FAL will have a chance to meet the class and put them at ease before they go for the licence. Again I would like to thank all the Amateurs who have put a lot of effort into making this a go. It's a very fitting tribute for our 75th Anniversary.

Bill
VE3XT

Where are They Now *Dennis Gasparotto VE3JAQ*

I have been down here for about 24 years now, after graduating from University of Manitoba in Electrical Engineering in 1985. Traveled for a while overseas and settled down in Toronto and now Oakville.

Married with two boys Devon 14 and Jared 18. My wife's name is Laurie. Over the years I have been active off and on and tried just about every mode there is except moon bounce. Joined the Contest Club of Ontario in 2003, which you may know is a very active contest club with several world records attached to its members (managed to scrape a few #1 ranking in Canada for CQWW DX contests myself in the Low Power SOAB category).

I have been working in the telecom industry for almost 24 years and although its been challenging it has been rewarding. Hoping to make it to 25 but the economic conditions are taking their toll on the industry.

Recently we made a trip back home to Tbay to visit mom, who is now 84 yrs old. Some fine memories started flowing many of which were kindled by the photos on the LARC 75 anniversary web site. My time as a member of LARC, the people that I had the good fortune of meeting and sharing this great hobby with, has literally shaped my life. I wish everyone the best 73's happy DX and HPE to HR U all on the bands... now lets hope for a good cycle already! Oh almost forgot we dabble in Astronomy as well. There is a definite connection with ham radio. If at all possible it sure would be nice to hear stories and comments from past and current club members.

Photo 1 is Gary Foster VA3GGF and myself at our 2008 Field Day

3. Another station shot



2. VE3JAQ at the staion with Harry Kosterman VA3EC



4. Dennis and Laurie in Hawaii



Best regards and 73 de VE3JAQ Dennis
dgasparotto@cogeco.ca

February 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1900 hours VHF ARES Net on YQT		Coffee at Boston on Arthur			1
2	3	4	5	6	7 DID YOU FREEZE YOUR BUNS?	8
9	10	11	12 LARC Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	ANNUAL DINNER IS IN APRIL THIS YEAR